

J.C. Watts, Jr.
Chairman
4th District, Oklahoma

*House Meets at 10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business
(No Votes Before 2:00 p.m.)*

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.R. 2952—Designating the Keith D. Oglesby Station

H.R. 3018—Designating the Marybelle H. Howe Post Office

H.R. 1827—Government Waste Corrections Act

**S.Con.Res. 91—Congratulating Lithuania on the 10th Anniversary of
Reestablishing its Independence**

H.J. Res. 86—Recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War

* * *

Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

Floor Situation: The House will consider the following four bills under suspension of the rules today. After considering the first two suspensions, the House will consider H.R. 1827 and then consider the final two measures under suspension. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

H.R. 2952 designates the post office located at 100 Orchard Park Drive in Greenville, South Carolina as the “Keith D. Oglesby Station.” The late Mr. Oglesby served as the Postmaster General of the Greenville, South Carolina Post Office. His community activism included hosting the First-Day of Issue ceremonies for the Organ and Tissue Donation stamp, chairing the Greenville County’s Combined Federal Campaign, and volunteering with the Salvation Army. The Post Office has honored Keith Oglesby posthumously with his second Benjamin Award for outstanding community service. The bill was introduced by Mr. DeMint *et al.* and was reported by the Government Reform Committee by voice vote on October 28, 1999.

H.R. 3018 designates the post office located at 557 East Bay Street in Charleston, South Carolina as the “Marybelle H. Howe Post Office.” Ms. Howe was a journalist and community activist who made many

contributions to the community of South Carolina. One of her greatest achievements was her leadership in establishing Camp Care on John's Island in the late 1950s to minister to the children of migrant workers. This activity blossomed into Rural Mission, Inc. that assists the residents of the Sea Islands. The bill was introduced by Mr. Clyburn *et al.* and was reported by the Government Reform Committee by voice vote on October 28, 1999.

S.Con.Res. 91 congratulates Lithuania on the 10th anniversary of reestablishing its independence and the leading role it played in the disintegration of the former Soviet Union and commends the country for its success in implementing political and economic reforms which may further speed the process of that country's integration into European and western institutions. March 11, 2000, marks the 10th anniversary of the declaration of independence of Lithuania from the former Soviet Union. Lithuania was the first of the Soviet Republics to declare independence. After its declaration, Soviet forces attacked a television station in Vilnius, killing 13 Lithuanians. Another woman was killed while trying to block a Soviet armored personnel carrier. Currently, Lithuania is seeking membership into democratic organizations like the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union. The bill was referred to the House on March 2, 2000, and was not considered by a House committee.

H.J. Res. 86 expresses the sense of Congress to (1) recognize the historic significance of the 50th anniversary of the Korean War; (2) express gratitude to the members of the Armed Forces who served in the Korean War; and (3) honor the memory of service members who paid the ultimate price for the cause of freedom, including those who remain unaccounted for. In addition, this resolution calls on the president to issue a proclamation to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Korean War and the sacrifices of those who served and fought in Korea to defeat the spread of communism, and call on the country to observe such anniversary with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXIX, #5, March 3, 2000.



H.R. 1827—Government Waste Corrections Act

Floor Situation: The House will consider H.R. 1827 after it finishes considering the first two scheduled suspensions. On February 29, the Rules Committee granted an open rule that provides one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Government Reform Committee. The rule makes in order a committee amendment in the nature of a substitute as base text and accords priority in recognition to members who have their amendments pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*. The rule waives House rules prohibiting appropriations in a legislative bill. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: H.R. 1827 amends current law to require federal agencies to perform recovery audits to recapture overpayments made for goods or services that total \$500 million or more per fiscal year. These agencies also must institute a management improvement program to address any underlying problems in their payment systems. The bill requires agency heads to conduct recovery audits in a manner that is in the best financial interest to the government. To help ensure that this goal is met, the agency head must conduct

a public-private cost comparison to determine whether the audit should be performed in-house or by an outside auditor.

Of any money collected through the recovery audit process, the measure requires that at least 50 percent of funds be deposited into the general treasury. Other recovery funds will be used to pay the auditor and cover any costs incurred by the agency. Finally, up to 25 percent of funds may be used to establish a management improvement program for the agency.

The measure requires the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to provide guidance to federal agencies in carrying out recovery audits. Specifically, OMB must (1) issue guidelines and standards for recovery audits; (2) exempt agencies from recovery auditing if it determines that such a process is not cost effective or goes against the agency's mission; and (3) report to the president and Congress within one year of enactment, and annually for each of the two years thereafter, detailing the progress and setbacks of the program. The General Accounting Office (GAO) must report to Congress on the progress of the bill's implementation 60 days after each OMB report.

The Defense Department's major defense system contracts will only be subject to audits once the contracts are closed. This addresses concerns that audits would be difficult to perform on cost-type contracts due to the "moving target" nature of progress payments.

CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 1827 will result in a net decrease of direct spending by \$100 million over FYs 2000-2004 and by \$90 million over FYs 2000-2009. The measure was introduced by Mr. Burton *et al.* and was reported by the Government Reform Committee by voice vote on November 17, 1999.

Views: Both the Republican leadership and the Clinton Administration support passage of the bill.

Amendments: At press time, the *Legislative Digest* was aware of the following amendment to H.R. 1827:

Ms. Jackson-Lee may offer an amendment to require the OMB to study the effects of recovery audits, and give specific attention to determine whether proper and adequate notice had been given to subjects of the audits. *Staff Contact: Mark Carrie, x5-3816*

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXIX, #5, March 3, 2000.

* * *

To subscribe to this publication via e-mail, please send an e-mail to LegDigest@mail.house.gov and type "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line.

Brian Fortune: *Managing Editor*

Kevin Smith: *Senior Legislative Analyst*

Scott Galupo, Brendan Shields,
Heather Valentine & Michelle Yahng:
Legislative Analysts

House
REPUBLICAN
Conference

Legislative
Digest

<http://hillsource.house.gov/LegislativeDigest>